

SCRABBLE-FRIENDLY EIGHT SQUARES

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There have been many articles on word squares in Word Ways over the last ten years or so. Many eight-squares have appeared, a few nine-squares, and even fewer (flawed) ten-squares.

One of the top-rated Scrabble players in England is David Acton. David is also a programmer, and has produced top-flight software for playing Scrabble. Recently he has been extending his interests to word squares. He has both the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD) and Official Scrabble Words (OSW), the English equivalent to OSPD, in computer-readable form.

David recently sent me over forty eight-squares. I believe that nearly all of these are brand-new discoveries, not having appeared in Word Ways or elsewhere previously. David's squares are presented below.

According to David, the word squares here include the complete set of eight-squares which can be found using OSW and OSPD. All words can be found in either or both of OSW and OSPD, with the exception of BASSETTS (squares 6-7) and TIME BASE (squares 25-26). If anyone can find a reference for the solidly-spelled TIMEBASE, please let me know.

Sources for the words are given to the right of each square: C for Chambers Dictionary, W for the unabridged Merriam-Webster (either the Second or Third Edition), E for Official Scrabble Words (Third Edition), and A for Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Third Edition). I have only bothered to search for a word in Webster's Second if it doesn't exist in Webster's Third.

Square 1	Squares 2-3 (E/L)	Square 4
A N O S M I A S cwea	A T T R A C T S cwea	B A C K A C H E cwea
N A S C E N C Y cwea	T E R E B R A E cwe	A P H E L I A N cwea
O S T R A C O N cwea	T R A P L I K E cwea	C H A R A C I D c e a
S C R O L L E D cwea	R E P * A T E D w a	K E R O S E N E cwea
M E A L T I M E cwea	A B L A T I O N cwea	A L A S T R I M cwea
I N C L I N E S cwea	C R I T I Q U E cwea	C I C E R O N I cwea
A C O E M E T I cwe	T A K E O U T S cwea	H A I N I N G S c e
S Y N D E S I S cwea	S E E D N E S S cwe	E N D E M I S M cwea

Square 1 is of excellent quality; only ACOEMETI is not in all four dictionaries. In Square 2, REPEATED is in all four dictionaries. Square 4 was published in the Aug 1995 Word Ways.

Square 5

B A S E L A R D cwe
 A N I M A T E R cwea
 S I D E N O T E cwe
 E M E T I N E S cwea
 L A N I T A L S a
 A T O N A B L E w a
 R E T E L L E R c ea
 D R E S S E R S cwea

Squares 6-7 (O/U)

B A S S E T T S
 A X L E T R E E w a
 S L * S H I E R wea
 S E S T E T T E c e
 E T H E R I O N cwe
 T R I T I A T E c e
 T E E T O T A L cwe
 S E R E N E L Y cwea

Square 8-31 (B/R)

* E C L A S P S wea
 E P H E M E R A cwea
 C H A P E R O N cwea
 L E P O R I N E cwea
 A M E R I C A N cw
 S E R I C I T E cwe
 P R O N A T E S cwea
 S A N E N E S S cwea

BASSETTS is in the Merriam-Webster 10th New Collegiate. In Squares 6-7, SLOSHY and SLUSHY can be found in Chambers.

Square 9

C A R B O R A S w a
 A P E R I E N T cwea
 R E C A L L E R a
 B R A S S I C A cwea
 O I L S E E D S w a
 R E L I E V O S cwea
 A N E C D O T E cwea
 S T R A S S E S cwea

Squares 10-17 (C/M)

* A S C A R A S cwea
 A U T O N O M Y cwea
 S T U N T M E N cwea
 C O N F I N E D cwea
 A N T I M E R E w a
 R O M N E Y A S c w
 A M E E R A T E a
 S Y N D E S E S cwea

Squares 11-43 (C/V)

* I T E S S E S a
 I S O T H E R E cwea
 T O X A E M I A cwea
 E T A E R I O S cwe
 S H E R W A N I cwe
 S E M I A R I D w a
 E R I O N I T E cwe
 S E A S I D E S cwea

Webster's Third has STUNT MAN as two words.

Square 12

C R A B W I S E cwea
 R A T L I N E S cwea
 A T L A N T E S w a
 B L A S T E M A cwea
 W I N T E R L Y cwea
 I N T E R T I E cwea
 S E E M L I E R cwea
 E S S A Y E R S cwea

Squares 13-14 (D/S)

E S C A P A D O c e
 S P A R E R I B w a
 C A R E L E S S cwea
 A R E O L A T E cwea
 P E L L A C H S c e
 A R E A C H E S cwe
 D I S T H E N E cwe
 O B S E S S E * cwea

Square 15

G R A P P L E S cwea
 R E F E R E N T cwea
 A F F R O N T E cwe
 P E R I P T E R a
 P R O P P A N T c e
 L E N T A N D O cwea
 E N T E N D E R cwe
 S T E R T O R S w a

Square 12 was published in the Aug 1995 Word Ways.

Square 16

H A L F B A C K w a
 A N A L O G U E cwea
 L A C U N A T E cwea
 F L U E N C E S cwe
 B O N N I E S T wea
 A G A C E R I E cwe
 C U T E S I E R ea
 K E E S T E R S w a

Square 18

M I S T R E A T cwea
 I S C H E M I A cwea
 S C O W D E R S cwea
 T H W A I T E S cwe
 R E D I V I D E cwea
 E M E T I C A L cwe
 A I R E D A L E cw
 T A S S E L E D cwea

Square 19

M O L L U S C S cwea
 O R I E N T A L cwea
 L I N C T U R E c e
 L E C T U R E D cwea
 U N T U R N E D cwea
 S T U R N I N E cwe
 C A R E E N E R w a
 S L E D D E R S w a

In Square 16, Chambers has BONNIE (or BONNY) and CUTESY.

Square 20

NAVICERT cwea
ANIMATER cwea
VICARAGE cwea
IMAMATES cwea
CARABINS cwea
ETATISTE c e
REGENTAL w a
TRESSSELS cwea

Square 21

NAVICERT cwea
ANIMATER cwea
VICINAGE cwea
IMITATES cwea
CANAKINS cwea
ETATISTE c w
REGENTAL w a
TRESSSELS cwea

Square 22

NEREIDES cwea
ENERGISE cwea
RESONATE cwea
EROTIZED w a
IGNITERS cwea
DIAZEPAM c ea
ESTERASE w a
SEEDSMEN cwea

Squares 20 and 21 have five words in common.

Square 23

NEREIDES cwea
ETERNISE c ea
RELOCATE cwea
EROTIZED w a
INCITERS cwea
DIAZEPAM c ea
ESTERASE w a
SEEDSMEN cwea

Square 24

NEREIDES cwea
ETERNISE c ea
RENOVATE cwea
EROTIZED w a
INVITERS cwea
DIAZEPAM c ea
ESTERASE w a
SEEDSMEN cwea

Squares 25-26 (E/O)

OCTOBERS cw
CHIVAREE cwea
TIMEBASE w
OVEREDIT w a
BABELISH cwe
ERADIATE cwea
RESIST * R w a
SEETHERS cwe

Squares 22-23 have five words in common, Squares 22 and 24 have five words in common, and Squares 23-24 have six words in common. In Squares 23-24, Webster's Third has ETERNIZE. In Squares 25-26, Webster's Third has TIME BASE. RESISTOR in Square 26 is found in all four dictionaries.

Square 27

PANDEMIC cwe
AMOOVING c e
NORMANDE w a
DOMINION cwea
EVANESCE cwea
MINISKIS a
INDOCILE cwea
AGNESSES w a

Squares 28-29 (D/S)

PLAGUIER e
LAMINATE cwea
AMULETIC cwe
GILLAROO cwe
UNEASILY cwea
IATRICAL w a
ETIOULATE cwea
RECOYLE * c e

Square 30

POSTCARD cwea
OUTROPER cwe
STRATOSE cwe
TRAPESES cwea
COTERIES cwea
APOSITIA cwe
RESEEING w a
DRESSAGE cwea

In Square 27, Webster's Third has NORMANDE SAUCE. In Squares 28-29, Chambers and Webster's Third have PLAGUY and PLAGUEY.

Square 32

RESPADES w a
ETHERISE c e
SHIPMATE cwea
PEPTIZED cwea
ARMIGERS cwea
DIAZEPAM c ea
ESTERASE w a
SEEDSMEN cwea

Squares 33-34 (D/S)

SASARARA cwe
ACHIEVES cwea
SHORTIES cwea
AIRFRAME cwea
RETRATES c e
AVIATORS cwea
REEMERGE w a
ASSESES * cwea

Square 35

SCABBARD cwea
COLLEGER cwea
ALLUSIVE cwea
BLUETTES c e
BESTIALS cwe
AGITABLE w a
REVELLER cwea
DRESSERS cwea

In Square 32, Webster's Third has ETHERIZE.

Square 36

S C R A B B L E cwea
 C H O L E R I C cwea
 R O S T R A T E cwea
 A L T R I C E S cwe
 B E R I B E R I cwea
 B R A C E R O S w a
 L I T E R O S E c e
 E C E S I S E S w a

Square 37

S P R E A T H E c e
 P L E N C H E S a
 R E D S H O R T cwe
 E N S N A R E R w a
 A C H A E N I A c e
 T H O R N I N G cwea
 H E R E I N T O w a
 E S T R A G O N w a

Squares 38-39-40 (G/T/W)

S T R A B I S M cwe
 T R E C E N T O cwea
 R E * A R D E R cwe
 A C A P N I A S cwea
 B E R N I C L E w a
 I N D I C I A L cwea
 S T E A L A G E w a
 M O R S E L E D w a

Square 36 was published in the Aug 1995 Word Ways. In Square 37, Webster's Third has RED-SHORT. In Square 40, REWARDER is in all four dictionaries.

Square 41

T O P M A S T S cwea
 O C T A N T A L cwea
 P T O M A I N E cwea
 M A M I L L A E cwe
 A N A L Y T I C cwea
 S T I L T I S H cwe
 T A N A I S T E c e
 S L E E C H E S cwe

Square 42

U P S P R U N G cwea
 P R E R E N A L w a
 S E N I L I T Y cwea
 P R I M A T I C cwe
 R E L A T I V E cwea
 U N I T I Z E R w a
 N A T I V E L Y cwea
 G L Y C E R Y L cwea

The excellence of these squares has prompted me to encourage David Acton to explore further the world of geometric forms. David has already confirmed that there are no nine-squares which can be produced using only the words in OSW and OSPD. David has also produced a number of other geometric forms (diamonds, triangles, etc.) that I hope to share with Word Ways readers soon.